

SOME NOMENCLATRURAL CHANGES IN THE SECTIONS OF BEGONIA L.

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Recently the sections of the genus Begonia L. have been receiving some much needed study. Among others who have been reviewing them are A. Brade, L. B. Smith and B. G. Schubert, E. Irmischer, R. Wilocek, J. Doorenbos and R. Ziesenhenne. Mr. Ziesenhenne (personal communication) feels that besides those already published, several others should be described. A study of the sections by the present writers showed three nomenclatural changes which seem desirable and one sectional name which is frequently misspelled.

Section Giraoudia Klotzsch, Begoniaceen-Gattungen und Arten, 41. 1855, as genus; A. DC., Ann. Sci. Nat. Ser. 4, 11: 41. 1859, as section.

The spelling of the name of this section, and its original publication as a genus, has been questioned recently. The above spelling is that used by both Klotzsch and Alphonse de Candolle, and therefore is the spelling which should be used.

Section Begonia nom. nov.

Begonia Klotzsch, loc. cit., 20, as genus.

Begoniastrum A. DC., loc. cit., 31. 1859; Prodromus 15, 1: 292. 1864, as section.

The type species of this section would of course be Begonia obliqua L., Species Plantarum, 1056. 1753, except that Linnaeus placed three previously published species in his typical variety, leaving the identity of the species questionable. Begonia acutifolia Jacq., Collect. 1: 122. 1786, is considered by the writers as the type species of the genus.

Since the International Rules (Article 22) decrees that the section including the type species of the correct name of the genus to which it is assigned, bears the (generic) name unaltered as its epithet, the correct sectional epithet must be Begonia.

Section Tetraphila A. DC., Prodromus 15, 1: 517. 1864, emend. A. Baranov.

Fusibegonia Warburg in Engler und Prantl, Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien 3, 6a: 140. 1895, as section.

The following is the amended and revised description of the section Tetraphila:

Herbae epiphytae vel scandentes saepe valde ramosae, glabrae vel trichomatibus stellatis obtectae. Nodi caulorum interdum radicati. Folia penninervia; stipulae magnae, caducae. Cymae laterales, axillares, breves, plerumque oligoflorae. Flores masculini quadritepali, filamentis vulgo plus minus in fasciculum conoideum coalitis, rarior liberis; antherae oblongae, connectivo non producto, sessiles vel saltem filamentis longiores. Flores feminei quadritepali, tepalis interioribus duobus interdum plus minus reductis vel vestigialibus; stylis 3 caducis, apice bifurcatis, interne lineis papillosis instructis; placentae divisae. Fructus longus, cylindricus vel fusiformis, exalatus, 4-ocularis, post maturitatem tenuiter membranaceus vel carnosus.

Typus sectionis: Begonia manni Hooker f., Bot. Mag. 90: t. 5434. 1864.

Epiphytic and climbing, often richly branched herbs, glabrous or covered with stellate trichomes; stem nodes sometimes producing roots; leaves pinnately-veined; inflorescence lateral, axillary, cymose, in most cases few-flowered, short; stipules large, deciduous; staminate flowers with 4 tepals, filaments more or less united in a conical cluster, seldom free; anthers oblong, sessile or at least longer than the filaments, connective short; pistillate flowers with tepals 4, the inner two sometimes smaller or even vestigial, styles 3 (more, or rarely only 2), not persistent, sometimes connate at the base, at the apex two-parted, stigmatic papillae make up a continuous band on the inner surface, placentae divided; fruit long, cylindrical or spindle-shaped (fusiform), wingless, typically 4-ocular, thin-membranous or fleshy at maturity.

The type is Begonia manni Hooker f., loc. cit. 90: t. 5434. 1864.

Section Peltaugustia Barkley, grad. nov.

Peltaugustia Warburg in Engler und Prantl, loc. cit. 3. 6a: 140. 1895, as subsection.

The only member of the section is Begonia socotrana Hooker f., Gard. Chron. 8, f. l. 1881; Bot. Mag. 107, t. 6555. 1881, a species of the island of Socotra. This is a white-flowered, peltate-leafed plant, with one-winged fruit. It has a short growing season and a long dormant period. It is exceptional in the genus as being the only species producing a bulb.

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